

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01

OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 CEA-01 NEA-10 /100 W
----- 072150

R 251026Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8474

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PORT

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION EMBRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS ACCRA 4775

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP ETRD

SUBJ: COCOA PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE MEETING OPENS

1. SUMMARY. MEETING OPENED ACCRA JULY 24 WITH CALL ON BEHALF OF HEAD OF STATE FOR US TO JOIN RENEGOTIATED INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT WITH HIGHER PRICE RANGE, AND GENERALLY CALL FOR EQUITY FROM DC'S FOR PRIMARY-PRODUCING LDC'S. GABON JOINED ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

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2. 25TH MEETING OF COCOA PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE OPENED AT ACCRA

JULY 24. AS USUAL AT SUCH EVENTS HERE, DIPLOMATIC CORPS INVITED TO OPENING SESSION. WHILE SOME CHARGEES D'AFFAIRES AND ECONOMIC OFFICERS ATTENDED, AMBASSADOR BLACK WAS ONLY FULL CHIEF OF MISSION PRESENT. PART OF OPENING SPEECH WAS DIRECTED TO US AND TO AMBASSADOR BY NAME (SEE BELOW).

3. HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG WAS SCHEDULED TO DELIVER SPEECH, BUT IT WAS READ ON HIS BEHALF BY COMMISSIONER (EQUIVALENT TO MINISTER) OF COCOA AFFAIRS BERNASKO. POINTS MADE INCLUDE: (A) COMPLAINED ABOUT INFLATION FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THAT DCS PROFIT UNFAIRLY FROM LCDS' PRIMARY PRODUCTS, THAT THEY "THREATEN US WITH THE USE OF SYNTHETIC MATERIALS," CALLED FOR FAIRER COMMODITY PRICES, AND REFERRED FAVORABLY TO NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER PROJECTED AT 6TH UNGA SPECIAL SESSION.

(B) ONLY THROUGH COMMODITY AGREEMENTS CAN PRODUCERS BE ASSURED OF REMUNERATIVE AND STABLE PRICES. RENEGOTIATION OF INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT UNDER UNCTAD AUSPICES AT GENEVA SEPT 17-OCT 13 WILL NEED TO ALLOW FOR HIGHER PRICE RANGE. RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT "EXCESSIVELY HIGH PRICE LEVEL...AS... WITH COFFEE, WILL ONLY TEND TO DEPRESS COCOA CONSUMPTION TO OUR DETRIMENT."

(C) "WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF THOSE CONSUMER COUNTRIES WHO ARE ALREADY MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT. IT IS OUR EXPECTATION THAT THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT WILL BE THERE, IN SEPTEMBER, DURING THE GENEVA RENEGOTIATIONS. TO THE UNITED STATES, I TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL: AS THE MOST IMPORTANT COCOA CONSUMER, THE US PLAYED AN EFFECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN FASHIONING THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1972 AGREEMENT. WE, HOWEVER, REGRET IT THAT IN SPITE OF THIS COMMENDABLE ROLE, THE US GOVERNMENT WAS UNABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROVISIONS MADE AVAILABLE TO SIGNATORY COUNTRIES.

"THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NATURALLY CONCERNED TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF US MANUFACTURERS, TRADERS AND CONSUMER. BUT SO ARE THE GOVERNMENTS OF PRODUCER COUNTRIES AND OF THE OTHER CONSUMER COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE AGREEMENT. NOW, IF THESE OTHER MAJOR CONSUMERS ARE ABLE TO PRESERVE THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE AGREEMENT, THEN WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE PROVISIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT TO COINCIDE WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AS WELL. WE ARE, IN CONSEQUENCE, LOOKING FORWARD (AT THIS POINT BERNASKO INSERTED "AND I MUST EMPHASIZE, LOOKING FORWARD, MADAME AMBASSADOR") TO SEEING THE UNITED STATES TAKE ITS RIGHFUL PLACE WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT."

(D) "WE ARE COMMITTED TO COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION."

(E) EEC STABILIZATION FUND UNDER LOME CONVENTION "A MAJOR
STEP FORWARD" BUT IT WILL NOT STABILIZE PRODUCER'S REAL
INCOME UNLESS TAKES INFLATION INTO ACCOUNT.

4. GABON JOINED ALLIANCE AT 7TH MEMBER. MEMBERS BRAZIL,
CAMEROON, IVORY COAST, NIGERIA, TOGO ALSO PRESENT, AS WERE
OBSERVERS FROM ECUADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, LIBERIA, MEXICO,
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, TRINIDAD AND TABAGO, AND VENEZUELA.

5. NIGERIAN REQUESTED THAT MEETING TO SIGN REVISED ICA BE
HELD AT LAGOS.
BLACK

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